

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1-21 are rejected. The specification is objected to by the Examiner. No new subject matter has been added. Reconsideration is requested in light of the above amendments and following comments.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112

Claims 1,7,8,13,16, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The language objected to by the Examiner has been deleted. Therefore, claims Claims 1,7,8,13,16, and 19 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13, 16, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. 5,805,818 A to Perlman et al. ("Perlman"). Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perlman in view of U.S. Pat. 5,915,001 A to Uppaluru ("Uppaluru").

The Examiner states that Perlman transmits plural endpoint probes to produce plural endpoint probe results and that each of similarly situated endpoint probe results are represented by a reduced number of recorded endpoint probe results. The Examiner states that an endpoint probe result is viewed as being equivalent to a packet. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

However, to further clarify the patentable subject matter, claim 1 has been amended to specify transmitting or receiving a plurality of endpoint probes associated with a plurality of different endpoint addresses. A group of the plurality of endpoint addresses associated with a same network domain are identified. Then a reduced number of network addresses less than a total number of the endpoint addresses in the identified group is used for identifying probe results for each of the identified group of endpoint addresses.

This is described in FIGS. 1-3 and specifically in the specification at page 6, lines 1-10. One reason to represent probe results for multiple endpoints is to allow a cache in a

network processing device to maintain network performance information representing more network endpoints. Page, 4, lines 17-28.

Perlman on the other hand has nothing to do with representing performance characteristics of multiple endpoints with a same network address as specified in claim 1. Perlman similar reduces network traffic by providing acknowledgement flags in network packets that would already have been sent to a neighboring device. The acknowledgement flag notifies the neighboring device to send back a reply. Col. 8, lines 14-39. This reduces bandwidth by avoiding having to send separate probe packets to the neighboring device to determine network connectivity.

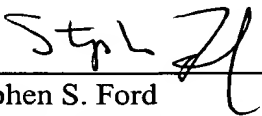
However, there is nothing in Perlman that suggests using the same network address to represent performance results for multiple endpoint addresses. Even though fewer probe packets may have to be sent in Perlman, a network device maintaining network performance information still has to save individual network performance information for each network endpoint. Thus, one of the problems solved by the present invention still exists in Perlman. Namely, the system in Perlman would still run out of memory space trying to maintain endpoint performance information for a large number of different endpoint addresses.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9, 11-13, and 16-19 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 15, 2003


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